

donor and arranged for
convenient use!

The more I think of this
opportunity to devote my time
exclusively to a favorite pursuit
- of the advantages it gives me
towards educating my children
& the more I feel out of
place where I am. When I
wrote you before my plans
were crude - but day by day
they take on definite shape,
I shall sell out here even if
I have to depend entirely
upon income from invested
capital - but will much
prefer to have some congenial
occupations rather than to
"join the ignoble army of idlers"
I can get away in the
course of a year I think,
Please advise me from
time to time, What is the
salary likely to be?

I could not relinquish
personal ownership of my
Herb. since my connections

Mountaindale Ills
Feb 24th 1873

Prof A. Gray

Dear Sir

Thanks for
your kind and encouraging
letter. Columbus, O, as a
place of residence and a
Professorship of Botany as
an occupation would
please me beyond measure
- I prefer a move eastward
and this point would still
leave me within reach of
N. Ills where for some
years to come I must
hold securities which
will require looking
after. I was born in Ohio,
you know, and lived there
till I was seventeen

Indeed I spent one winter in Columbus - a delightful city as I remember it. Please present my name as a candidate in proper season and if I get the position I will do my best to merit your recommendation.

A few words about my Herbarium which I wish some good friend would have the say for me. Of its size you can judge somewhat from the amount of paper I have obtained from you, about 15,000 species illustrated by + 30,000 specimens. The average character of the specimens is excellent and the mounting ditto shines modestly for you! I never dreamed of making more than a private collection for my own personal gratification and instruction; hence the work (all done with my own hands) has been done with loving care. In 13 years past I have enjoyed a liberal exchange with our best collectors and have sought to illustrate especially the Manual flora as well as possible - each species in fl & fr with root & its number varieties - geographical range &c. A very large number of specimens have passed through my hands in proportion to the number which I have selected for my Herb. Aside from exchanges I have collected from the four corners as it were of the Manual district N. Ills - S. Ills - Mass, & Dist of Col. The specimens are all placed